

Dear FCC

I am writing this letter in regards to Digital Radio Broadcast.

The first question in my mind is why digital radio? Is there a public outcry that their radios are performing inadequately? Of course not, I have yet to meet many that has even heard of it, let alone knew the issues around it. They have no idea that the radios that they currently have will simply not work with an all-digital transmission. Yes, I know, it starts out with IBOC that still has an analog component, then later is all digital.

This is just another "gee whiz" gadget that mega corporations in China are pushing on the rest of the world at the expense of the American consumer. This has been reported in Monitoring Times, a leading publication in the radio field.

At first it sounds really good, digital quality with an AM receiver. Well it really is no longer an AM receiver, just more digital wireless media, like the Internet, cellphones, and pagers.

The cost of these receivers will easily be 10 times that of existing radio costs, not to mention the cost of the transmitters.

Take a look at the other digital media. How long did any one standard get used before it was discontinued and everyone had to get an upgrade or buy new hardware?

In ten years they will easily be 12 more different, incompatible formats for messaging, music, and broadcast.

How is that possible? The digital numbers transmitted will be within the regulations that were set, however, what those numbers mean to the computer can be entirely different.

It is more than likely that there will be no one receiver that will be compatible with all formats. In short... chaos.

If FCC resources are short now, imagine a regulatory nightmare.

What is worse is if free nations are required to transmit in digital format due to international treaties, then it will be easy for the despots and dictators to reprogram their domestic radios to block programs from the BBC, VOA, TransWorld Radio and all others. Once this happens, these voices of freedom will be forever silenced. You might as well as save the electricity and turn the transmitters off.

This will be virtually a death knell to the Amateur Radio organizations. Simply because it will be indistinguishable between Internet and radio. Kids get interested when they can take apart something and see how it works. Radio is that. If it is complicated like computers are today, no one is going to bother to try to see what is inside, touch it and you break it technology. No interest, no radio amateurs, no radio engineers, and no radio technicians.

Digital radios inherently require more power to run than a standard radio, they run a computer and a radio. More power means more batteries are used, more trash, and more pollution.

Let us not forget one of the main objectives of those who are pushing this technology, they wish to replace (at our cost) 2.5 billion radios. Have you ever seen 2.5 billion radios stacked up? I have not and certainly never hope to see that kind of waste in this world.

There can be a darker side to this kind of technology. Since I will not be programming the software (or firmware?) and you will not be doing it either. Probably no American will have even touched the insides of these radios. Who is to say these radios (or even TV's) will not suddenly go silent on a certain date when

the Civil Defense alarm goes on? Paranoid? Let us not forget 9/11. Anyone who would have sounded the alarm then would also have been called paranoid?

Or, since it is digital and it will have a small color screen that can have pictures, someone could transmit pornography to your children, send messages to them and lure them away.

Another group effected by this is Christian ministry groups who are trying to reach the oppressed of the world through FREE radio waves. No digital cables laid down in the jungles of the Amazon. No computer uplinks either! And how does an underground church in China going to get the word of God? Radio! My friends have made a way where there has been NO other way to get to the oppressed.

Radio has an honored past for public service/civil defense. After 9/11 a hospital in our area is now teaching amateur radio to their staff in case of an emergency. Why? Because they know that it is far more reliable than the more modern technology. Ever lost power in a lightening storm? And loose your phone? Well, not your old fashioned analog phone but the newer digital phones. Yes, cell phones have been helpful in emergency situations but not if 911 emergency response is overwhelmed with calls. Or have you been to a store lately when the power went out and the clerk couldn't figure out how to add up your purchases because they don't know math well enough because the machine does it all for them, so you have to put it all back on the selves? Well, I have. It worries me. Where are we going? Without knowing where we have been we can not build on or invent anything new OR be independent. And that should scare the living daylights out of you. Think having your gas prices go up because another nation decides to hold us hostage till they get more money because we HAVE to have it is bad? Well think of that on a more grand scale.

This nation was built using simple, stand-alone, reliable, long lasting technologies. A vacuum tube radio is still the most repairable radio out there. We are filling our land with trash generated by shortsighted thinking and powered by a river of petroleum.

The point is: Why leave ourselves open to these kinds of problems. Why reinvent the wheel to line a greedy person's or dare I say corporation (domestic or foreign) pocket? We don't gain enough to make it worth it.

Freedom was not and is not free. Don't just give away a priceless technology and throw it onto the junk heap.